

Our ref: INA-44

Client's ref: ST/SWE-GI-1455-ge

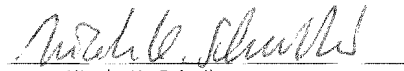
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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In re Application of: Erwin HARTMANN, et al. : Art Unit: 3676  
Serial No.: 10/596,518 : Examiner: Vishal A Patel  
Filed: 08/16/2006 :  
Title: SEAL WITH NON-CONTACT :  
ADJACENT DEFLECTOR RINGS : Dated: April 16, 2008  
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Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING  
I hereby certify that this document is being  
electronically transmitted to the Commissioner for  
Patents via EFS-Web on April 16, 2008.

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

BY:   
Nicole K. Schuller

**RESPONSE**

Sir:

This is in response to an Office Action dated March 17, 2008 in the above  
identified case.

Enclosed are remarks which contain an election to the Species Requirement.